

Notes from Injury Prevention Advisory Council
Thursday, October 18, 2007

Present:

Dawn Daniels + 2 Students
Emily Deever
Kandah Kamara
Jodi Hackworth
Joan Marciniak
Donna Myers
Barbara Cole
Joe O'Neil, MD
Kathy George, Student
Charlene Graves

Note – no minutes from March 18, 2007, meeting

Fireworks Injuries: Joan Marciniak and Jodi Hackworth displayed the beautiful poster they presented at the Injury Prevention Conference in Columbus Children's Hospital this week. The 2007 Fireworks Injury Report was also presented, and has been posted on the ISDH website. It can be found under "Data/Statistics." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has shown an interest in the fireworks reporting in our state, and may follow up with Target Stores to post signs warning patrons of fireworks danger. The reduction in reports this year was attributed to the 4th of July holiday falling on a Wednesday, and the drought conditions in the state, which prompted many communities to ban fireworks. Dr. O'Neil made the suggestion to publish the report in several peer review journals.

Suicide in Indiana Report: was posted on the ISDH website in time for Suicide Prevention Week in September, and was featured on the home page of the ISDH Intranet. Dr. Monroe's Rx was also devoted to Suicide Prevention Week. Dr. Graves discussed the Suicide Prevention Coalition, which now has 11 regional groups composed of volunteers. Iraq veterans are represented by someone from the Veterans' Administration. Related to this issue, Donna Myers just conducted 6-7 domestic violence workshops.

Childhood Drowning Report for State Child Fatality Review handout was discussed.

ISDH Trauma System Update: Dr. Graves has been working on administrative rules for the Registry, and thanks to Sen. Tom Wyss, ISDH has been named the lead agency. A retreat was held at Dr. Graves' lakeside home to discuss criteria for the rules. These were approved at the last Trauma meeting. The Registrar position will be starting on November 5, 2007 and is being funded by National Highway Traffic Safety Association funds. Dr. Graves explained the mini-grants problem at ISDH recently.

Spinal Cord Injury/Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund: There has been an increase in motorcycle licensing and registration fees in order to fund research projects. It is estimated to bring in \$1.6 million toward this effort.

Prescription drug Overdoses/Deaths: of interest to ASTHO, Jim Mowry of Poison Control is preparing a report for Dr. Monroe.

Infant Suffocation Deaths and Co-Sleeping: Dr. Graves gave an interview to the South Bend Tribune. Dr. O'Neil reports a proposal on infant suffocation deaths was presented to ISDH for funding to develop statistics and show actual causes for this tragedy. Indiana leads the nation in fatalities.

Council Member Announcements:

Donna Myers announced MCH has been conducting cessation trainings. Due to a Medicaid insurance card problem, early prenatal care has been losing ground. There are insufficient services in Vanderburgh County due to closing of St. Mary's Clinic.

Kathy George is working existence of assault weapons in Marion County with Joan and Jodi for the Partnership to Prevent Violent Injuries and Death. Five years of data has been accumulated on domestic violence. Sexual assault statistics are also being accumulated. Clergy are now being trained to recognize signs of domestic violence.

Dr. O'Neil discussed the issue of "graduated drivers' licensing," which now starts at 15 years of age. Statistics of younger driver's injuries/fatalities are being used to ask for licenses at 16, instead of 15.

Dawn Daniels announced the completion of a playground that will be accessible to all children, including special needs. She is finishing dog bite analyses, and one of the students is looking at injury data. Her group is responsible for the "Kids Dart" signs around Indianapolis. They are looking at a CDC grant for booster seat use, and examining pedestrian injuries.

Barbara Cole announced Dr. Mowry has been appointed to the Board of Directors for Poison Control Centers. She is now working on medication safety for seniors, many times unaware they are at risk.

Future of Trauma System/Injury Prevention Programs at ISDH:

Dr. Graves announced she is retiring in December 2007. Hopefully, Joan and Jodi can continue the Injury Program. The Trauma Registry has hired Charles Stein as Registrar, to start in November. Susan Perkins will continue as Program Manager for Trauma.